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Greenville Together Petitions City Council

After the Greenville City Council narrowly voted in May 2014 to change from partisan to non-partisan city elections, a group of concerned citizens formed to petition the Council to reconsider the issue. That group, Greenville Together, has submitted its petition to the city. If the petition includes a minimum of 6,057 verified signatures, the city will address the issue in one of two ways. Either the City Council can vote on repealing its earlier decision, or it can allow city residents to vote on the issue.

Greenville Together was originally formed by local African-Americans who feared that non-partisan elections would lead to disenfranchisement of minority voters, but support of their

petition has not been limited to minorities. An article in the March 10, 2015, issue of The Greenville News cites a report analyzing the signatures on the petition. That report shows that almost 2/3 of the people who signed the petition are white. The report also shows that the 6,593 signatures include at least 1,000 signatures from each City Council district and that 70% of signers are “independent” voters who are not closely associated with either major party.

The Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections Office has 30 days in which to verify the signatures on the petition before the City takes any action.

Save-the-date

The SCDP State Convention is coming up on April 24 & 25, 2015 in Columbia at the Columbia Convention Center. The Keynote speaker has not yet been announced. The primary item of business will be the election of State Party officers. All delegates

and alternates at last year’s convention are also delegates and alternates for this year’s convention, and we urge all of them to make plans to attend. We will forward more information with hotel room block reservations and other information when we receive it from the SCDP.



Why I Am a Democrat By Sharon Cherry

When I travel to other countries, people sometimes ask what the difference is between our two major political parties. I respond that the Democrats create new programs, such as Social Security and Affordable Health Care, in order to help our society progress, while the Republicans try to do away with many of those services and support fewer taxes for the rich. My friends in other countries often confess that they sympathize with our Democratic Party.

Greenville Democrats among Hundreds of Attendees at Greenville Salute to Selma

Many Greenville Democrats were among hundreds who attended the Salute to Selma march on Saturday, March 7 on Main Street in Downtown Greenville. Several hundred Greenvillians met at NOMA Square before noon and marched down Main Street to Court Square in front of the Westin Poinsett Hotel and the old court house building on Main Street.

March organizer Traci Fant of Think2xTwice.org, Greenville NAA CP President Rev. J.M. Flemming, City Councilwoman and Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lillian Brock Flemming, Mayor Knox White, and our new City Police Chief Ken Miller were among those leading the march, and all of them spoke from the top of the steps at the old court house on Court



Democratic Women carried their banner

undermine voting rights of African American and minorities such as voter photo ID legislation in South Carolina and other states and the US Supreme

Court's recent ruling terminating the requirement that all changes in voting rights in historically discriminatory states, like South Carolina receive prior federal Department of Justice review.

Traci Fant thanked new City Police Chief for his leadership in facilitating the march, and Chief Miller noted that today in

Greenville, the City Police were marching with the demonstrators.

Several of our Greenville Democratic Women lead

by present and past Presidents Linda Hardman and Kate Franch bore the Greenville Democratic Women banners in the march and were joined by County Chair, Eric Graben. Many Greenville Democrats were scattered among the many other organizations that participated in the march.



The march concluded at Court Square

Square. Rev. Flemming spoke eloquently of the both the past courageous struggle for civil rights, especially voting rights, and the need for continued courage and activism in the face of new efforts to



Marchers listen intently to speakers

Upcoming Meetings & Events

April 13, 2015 12:15 p.m, Fried Green Tomatoes

Greenville County Democratic Women welcome

Becky Callaham, Executive Director of Safe

Harbor will speake on Domestic Violence against

both men and women. Please call party headquarters to reserve your seat.

April 24 & 25, 2015 SCDP State Convention

Columbia Convention Center

Columbia, SC

Our Sympathies



Virginia Mann
May 5, 1922 - February 19, 2015 - 

The Greenville County Democratic Party expresses its deepest sympathies to the family of Virginia Mann, who passed away in Feburary. Mrs. Mann, widow of former U.S. Congressman James Robert Mann, was 92. A portion of her obituary from the Greenville News reads:

Mrs. Mann was born in Edgefield, SC, on May 5, 1922, the daughter of the late Artemas Lowe Brunson and Virginia Thomason Brunson. She grew up in Charleston, and her nostalgia for that city was lifelong. She graduated from Memminger High School and in 1942 from the College of Charleston, where she concentrated on literature and languages, branches of learning she loved throughout her life. At the College her participation in student organizations was extensive, she served as captain of the women's basketball team, and was a member of Chi Omega sorority. In 2013 she was honored at the College as its oldest living basketball alumna. In January 1945, Miss Brunson married Major James Mann of Greenville, a 1941 graduate of The Citadel. After the war the couple lived first in Columbia, where her husband completed USC Law School, then settled in Greenville,

where Mr. Mann joined his father's law firm and quickly entered a career of public service, which culminated in his five terms in Congress, 1969-79. Mrs. Mann was active in her husband's political life, and for long afterward in the Democratic Women of Greenville County, while rearing four children. In foreign travel with her husband, she met world leaders such as President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel.

Thanks to Our Contributors!

The Greenville County Democratic Party wishes to express its gratitude to its recent donors. These include our *Yellow Dog* donors.

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In Memory of Joanne Montague

| | | |
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| Harry Chapman | Ronald Goodwin | Gwen Kennedy |
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SCDP Hires New Executive Director



Jason Perky

The South Carolina Democratic Party recently announced that they have hired Jason Perky as their

new Executive Director. Mr. Perky has served as the Kansas Democratic Party as Executive Director since January 2012.

A native of Louisville, KY, Jason moved to Kansas having worked on presidential, gubernatorial, congressional, state legislative, and municipal campaigns in Kentucky, Illinois, and Virginia. In 2010, Perky managed one of only two races won by a Democratic candidate over a Republican incumbent in Kentucky, as well as managing one of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee's Essential Top 20 "Must Win" races. In 2008, Perky left his career litigating National Security Whistleblower Protection Act cases in Washington,

D.C., responding to President Barack Obama's call to action by joining Barack Obama's presidential campaign as an organizer in Central Virginia.

Perky earned a political science degree from Coker College in Hartsville, S.C. and a law degree from Vermont Law School. In addition to being the KDP ED, Perky serves as President of the Association of State Democratic Executive Directors and is a Political Partner for the Truman National Security Project. He also played golf professionally, competing in golf tournaments in both the United States and Europe.

Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz Headline SCDP 2015 Issues Conference in Myrtle Beach

The South Carolina Democratic Party held its 2015 Issues Conference in Myrtle Beach on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28. The first day of the conference provided South Carolina Democrats with an opportunity to receive training in areas such as local grassroots organization, Votebuilder and using social media and to confer and network with fellow Democrats around the state.

The second day of the conference opened with a panel presentation on ending domestic violence in South Carolina moderated by State Representative Mary Tinkler. Keynote speakers during the day included former Maryland Governor and possible 2016 US presidential candidate Martin O'Malley, DNC Chair and Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz and New Hampshire State Democratic Party Chairman Raymond Buckley, who is also the chair of the Association of Democratic State Party Chairs. You can read the entire text of Gov. O'Malley's speech at www.martinomalley.com. Select "Speeches" and the SCDP 2015 John Spratt

Issues Conference should be near the top. Our own State Party Chairman Jaime Harrison introduced the state party's new executive director, Jason Perky, who is currently the executive director of the Kansas Democratic Party and who will start full time in South Carolina in April.

The second day of the conference also featured panel presentations on "Young People in Politics: Cultivating a New Generation of Leaders," "Yes, Governor, There are Labor Unions in SC," "IVotronics: Does Your Vote Count?," "Civic Responsibility: Bridging the Gap Between Law Enforcement and Communities of Color," and "Why Privatization of Public Schools is Wrong."

Greenville County Chair Eric Graben and 1st Vice Chair Shirley Scott and Hispanic Caucus Chair Ilia Rivera all attended the conference. This was the 4th annual issues conference. Previous conferences were held in Columbia, Charleston and Greenville. The location for next year's issues conference has not yet been announced.

All 2014 **Gold** Level Yellow Dog Donors Recommit for 2015! Many New Donors Join the Club!

A special thanks to all of our individual 2014 Gold Level Greenville County Democratic Party Yellow Dog Club Donors. All of them have either donated or pledges \$1,000 again already this year! Thanks to:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Peggy Baxter | Eric & Helen Graben |
| Harry Chapman | Frank Holleman |
| Ingrid Erwin | Beth Evans & Ed Jones |
| Joe Erwin | Mike & Susan Riordan |
| Ann Funderburk | Edwina & Bruce Snyder |

Another special thanks to several new Yellow Dog Donors who have already provided generous support in 2015! Thanks to:

\$500 Donors
Paul & Sandra Giles Mary Louise Mims

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Cicily Mango Diane Ziegler

SCDP Business Caucus Holds Organizational Meeting

The Business Caucus of the South Carolina Democratic Party held its organizational meeting at the 2015 John Spratt Issues Conference in Myrtle Beach on Saturday, February 28. GCDP Chair Eric Graben is co-chair of the caucus along with Carlton Dallas of Charleston. Eric chaired the meeting as Carlton was unable to attend due to illness. The Caucus adopted the formal name of “Business Caucus” replacing its initial temporary name of “Small Business Caucus.” The Caucus also adopted bylaws in the form recommended by the SCDP Executive Committee and approved the following tailored statements of purpose: “The purpose of this Caucus is to help formulate, promote and educate voters on the economic and business policies of the SCDP and to elect Democratic Candidates,” and “It is the purpose of this Caucus to accurately represent the needs and interests of business people.” The following persons were elected temporary officers to serve with co-chairs Eric Graben and Carlton Dallas until the next meeting of the Caucus:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 1st Vice Chair: | Vacant |
| Secretary: | Karen Hahn |
| Treasurer: | Vacant |
| 1st Congressional District Vice Chair: | Barbara Bowman |
| 2nd Congressional District Vice Chair: | Lauren Bilton |

3rd Congressional District Vice Chair:

Paulette Keffas-Chassin

4th Congressional District Vice Chair:

Vacant

5th Congressional District Vice Chair:

Debra Belton

6th Congressional District Vice Chair:

Vacant

7th Congressional District Vice Chair:

LaShonda NeSmith

Please note that we need a co-chair for the 4th U.S. Congressional District which contains Greenville County. The Caucus also discussed the following topics and primary agenda items of the Caucus:

- (1) raising the minimum wage,
- (2) the Affordable Care Act,
- (3) funding for South Carolina roads and bridges,
- (4) a balanced approach to federal deficit and debt reduction (tax increases combined with spending cuts as successfully implemented by President Bill Clinton and proposed by President Obama) and
- (5) education funding.

Twenty-one South Carolina Democrats attended the organizational meeting, including Scarlett Jones and Karen Hahn of Greenville. The Caucus member roster currently includes 40 people. The next meeting of the Caucus will be at the SCDP State Convention April 24 and 25.

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